

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 and 13 were pending. Claims 1 and 9 have been amended, and claims 2-4 have been cancelled; leaving claims 1, 5-10 and 13 for consideration in the present amendment.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the features of now cancelled claims 2-4. Claim 9 has been amended to address the objections and indefinite rejections discussed below. Claim 9 has also been amended to define n4 as representing an integer of 2-20. Support can be found in the Examples and throughout the specification. No new matter is believed to have been entered by way of amendment.

Favorable reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Claim Objections

The objection of claim 9 has been rendered moot. Applicants have amended claim 9 to remove the terms (1-1), (2-1), (3-1), and (4-1).

Claim Rejections under 35 USC 112

Claims 1-10 and 13 stand rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph as indefinite for use of the terms “unit” and “compound having a substructure”. Applicants respectfully traverse.

The term “unit” has been rephrased as a divalent linking group. The term “compound having a substructure” has been deleted from the claims. Accordingly, the rejection should be withdrawn.

Claim Rejection under 35 USC 102/103

Claims 1, 5-9, and 13 stand rejected as anticipated under 35 USC 102(b) or, in the alternative, under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over Yamamoto et al. (JP09-077854). Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the features of claims 2-4, which were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations found in the base claim. Yamamoto fails to anticipate or render obvious an organic semiconductor material comprising an unsubstituted thiazole ring B, which binds to at least one of a divalent linking group having an alkyl group or a divalent linking group.

In contrast, Yamamoto discloses a polymer containing a repeat unit of 2, 2'-bithiazole-5,5'-diyl or 5,5'-bithiazole-2,2'-diyl, the polymer containing no groups other than 2,2'-bithiazole-5'5'-diyl or 5, 5'-bithiazole-2,2' diyl in the molecule, wherein at least one of the substituents of the thiazole ring in a repeating unit of the bithiazole has an alkyl group having 4 or more carbon atoms (see Abstract). As such, Yamamoto's polymers do not include an unsubstituted bithiazole since at least one of the thiazole rings is substituted with an alkyl group.

Yamamoto is fairly explicit that at least one side of its disclosed bithiazole compounds includes a long chain alkyl group of four or more carbons as a substituent. Yamamoto requires the long chain alkyl group of four or more carbons presumably to increase solubility in an organic solvent as well as to increase the overall molecular weight.

With regard to Claim 9, the thiazole moiety of formulas (1), (1-3), (1-4), (2), (2-3), (2-4), (3), (3-3), (3-4), (4), and (4-3) include at least one adjacent unsubstituted thiazole ring and the comments above are applicable.

In view of the foregoing, Yamamoto fails to anticipate and/or render obvious independent Claims 1, 9 and the rejection is requested to be withdrawn. Given that Claims 5-8, 10 and 13 depend from Claims 1, 9 and include all of the features therein, these claims are patentable for at least the same reasons.

It is believed that the foregoing amendments and remarks fully comply with the Office Action and that the claims herein should now be allowable to Applicants. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance are requested.

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If there are any additional charges with respect to this Amendment or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 06-1130.

Respectfully submitted,

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